

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:MYOHN:FBL

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L/ARA:DGANTZ (DRAFT)

D/LOS:OEESKIN (SUBSTANCE)

ARA/ECP:SFOUTS (DRAFT)

S/S:O LMATTESON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 258165

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, EFIN, RQ, XL, TD, US, ECLA, CU

SUBJECT: INITIATIVES ON PUERTO RICO

REF: PORT OF SPAIN 2634

FOR CHARGE FROM ROGERS

1. APPRECIATE RECEIVING P.M.'S VIEWS REPORTED IN REFTEL.

WE ARE PARTICULARLY GRATIFIED THAT SUCH A KNOWLEDGEABLE
LEADER AS WILLIAMS IS INTERESTED IN PROMOTING CONSTRUCTIVE
AND HELPFUL MEASURES IN REGARD TO PUERTO RICO'S RELATIONS

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WITH NEIGHBORS IN CARIBBEAN.

2. AS WILLIAMS IS NO DOUBT AWARE, COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT BELIEVES IN PRINCIPLE THAT IT SHOULD PLAY MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND HAS TAKEN SEVERAL INITIATIVES (INCLUDING THE PETITION FOR CDB MEMBERSHIP) TO THIS END. OUR GENERAL POLICY IS THAT WE WILL ATTEMPT TO FACILITATE PUERTO RICO'S LINKAGE WITH REGIONAL AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, PROVIDED THAT THESE DO NOT CONFLICT WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONDUCT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS.

3. WITH PROVISIO IN (2) ABOVE, WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO IDEA OF INFORMAL CONSULTATION BETWEEN GOTT AND PUERTO RICO, AND I WILL RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE GCPR. BEFORE DOING THIS, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL, HOWEVER, TO HAVE FURTHER INFORMATION FROM WILLIAMS ON HIS THINKING REGARDING POSSIBLE FORMS OF PUERTO RICAN ASSOCIATION WITH CARICOM. WHILE PROVISIONS IN ARTICLES 29 AND 30 OF THE CARICOM TREATY MIGHT THEORETICALLY PERMIT PUERTO RICAN ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP, WE NOTE THAT THE CONDITIONS OF SUCH MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE DETERMINED BY CONFERENCE OF THE CARICOM HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW WHAT TERMS OF ASSOCIATION WILLIAMS MAY HAVE IN MIND. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT ACCESSION TO THE COMMON MARKET PROVISIONS OF CARICOM WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR PUERTO RICO. CAN WILLIAMS FORESEE A LINKAGE WHICH DOES NOT ENTAIL ACCEPTANCE OF THE COMMON MARKET PROVISIONS?

4. REFTEL ALSO ALLUDES TO SEVERAL OTHER POSSIBLE AREAS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN GCPR AND THE CARIBBEAN STATES, I.E., CARIBBEAN COMMITTEE OF ECLA, CARIBBEAN UNIVERSITIES, AND LAW OF THE SEA. WE AGREE WITH WILLIAMS THAT SOME FORM OF PUERTO RICAN LINKAGE PROBABLY POSSIBLE IN ALL OF THESE CASES, BUT AGAIN DEGREE AND FORM OF AFFILIATION AND PARTICIPATION WOULD DEPEND ON VARIOUS FACTORS INCLUDING, OF COURSE, CURRENT ATTITUDES OF GCPR.

5. TRINIDAD LAW OF THE SEA MEETING, PARAGRAPH 8 REFTEL, WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPARATE MESSAGE.

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6. SUGGEST THAT YOU CONVEY SUBSTANCE OF FOREGOING TO WILLIAMS AT APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY, SEEKING WHATEVER CLARIFICATION YOU CAN GET FROM HIM ON HIS VIEWS ABOUT THE CARICOM POSSIBILITIES. WHEN THIS RECEIVED, WE WILL TRY OUT HIS CONSULTATION IDEA ON COMMONWEALTH. INGERSOLL

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